Chair’s Report

Welcome to beautiful Denver! I’m looking forward to our programming and the experience of being in Denver again.

During this year, we’ll be engaging in a Strategic Planning process for the Division. Our last Strategic Plan was developed in 2007 and while we’ve made progress, some EC members were disappointed in that process. The Committee on Chemical Safety and Corporate Associates have engaged in the process already, to positive reviews, so I’m hopeful this effort will be fruitful and positive for us. Ralph has included the CCS strategic plan in this agenda book for your review. We need to discuss who should participate in this effort and a location for the retreat. We applied for an Innovative Project Grant but we haven’t received a decision yet.

The American Association for Chemistry Teachers (www.teachchemistry.org) continues to grow and evolve. Several members of the EC have been involved and offer advice and counsel to the group. All but one of the attendees at the Laboratory Safety Workshop here in Denver are AACT members and as such, receive a reduced rate for registration. This is terrific but it also brings up a potential issue – the reduced registration rate doesn’t cover the actual costs of the workshop and it’s up to CHAS to subsidize these attendees. We’ll see what happens in Boston.

Ralph and his CINF colleagues have submitted a ChemLuminary application for an “innovative and unique project.” Their efforts towards a useful and flexible chemical information system are really creative and interesting.

Ken, Bob, Neal, and others have initiated a project to encourage other divisions to create a sub-committee for safety. CHED has already made progress towards this. With encouragement from Neal, the Committee on Corporation Associates has established a safety section. In addition to funding an eLearning module, CA will join the OSHA statement writing team and is considering some funding of K-12 science teachers to attend the CHAS Lab Safety Workshops. We will continue these efforts this year. It’s important for divisions to make safety a priority within their respective areas of influence and anything we can do to nudge these efforts forward, we need to pursue.

I’d like to thank Ken for his able leadership in 2014. Ralph and Neal continue to keep us both well-organized and solvent. Sammye and Larry are working hard to keep our policies in line with actual practice and within ACS guidelines. The Journal hums along, with only occasional spasms of doom from Harry. The Journal continues to be well-written, well-edited, and well-regarded in the health and safety community. Our very own Diane Schmidt, former Chair of the Division, is President of the Society this year. The Division is healthy and I’m humbled and proud to be your Chair this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie M. Decker, Chair 2015

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